

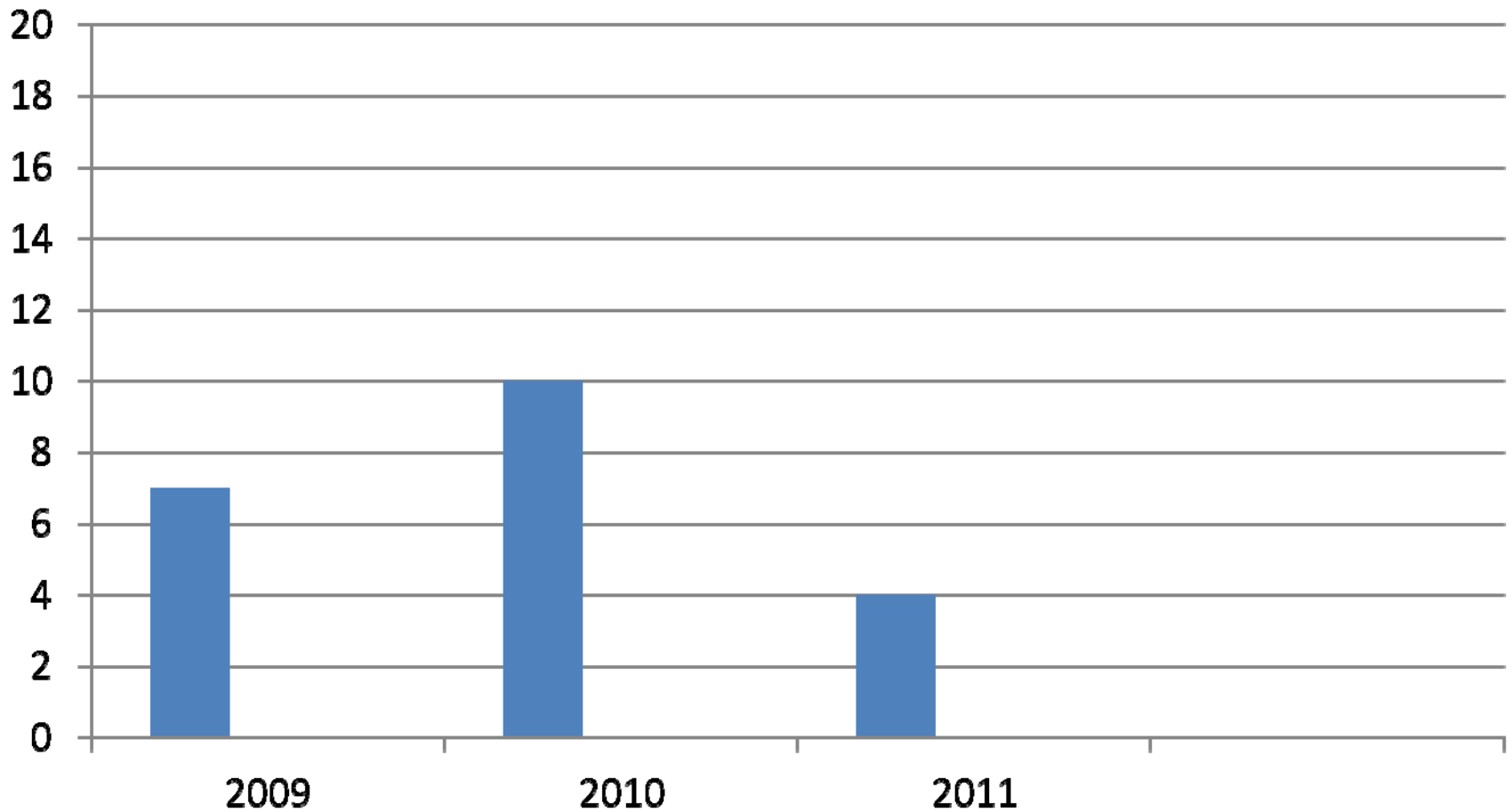
Deer in Northwest Austin Observations and Recommendations

Presented by DeerAustin
to the Austin City Council

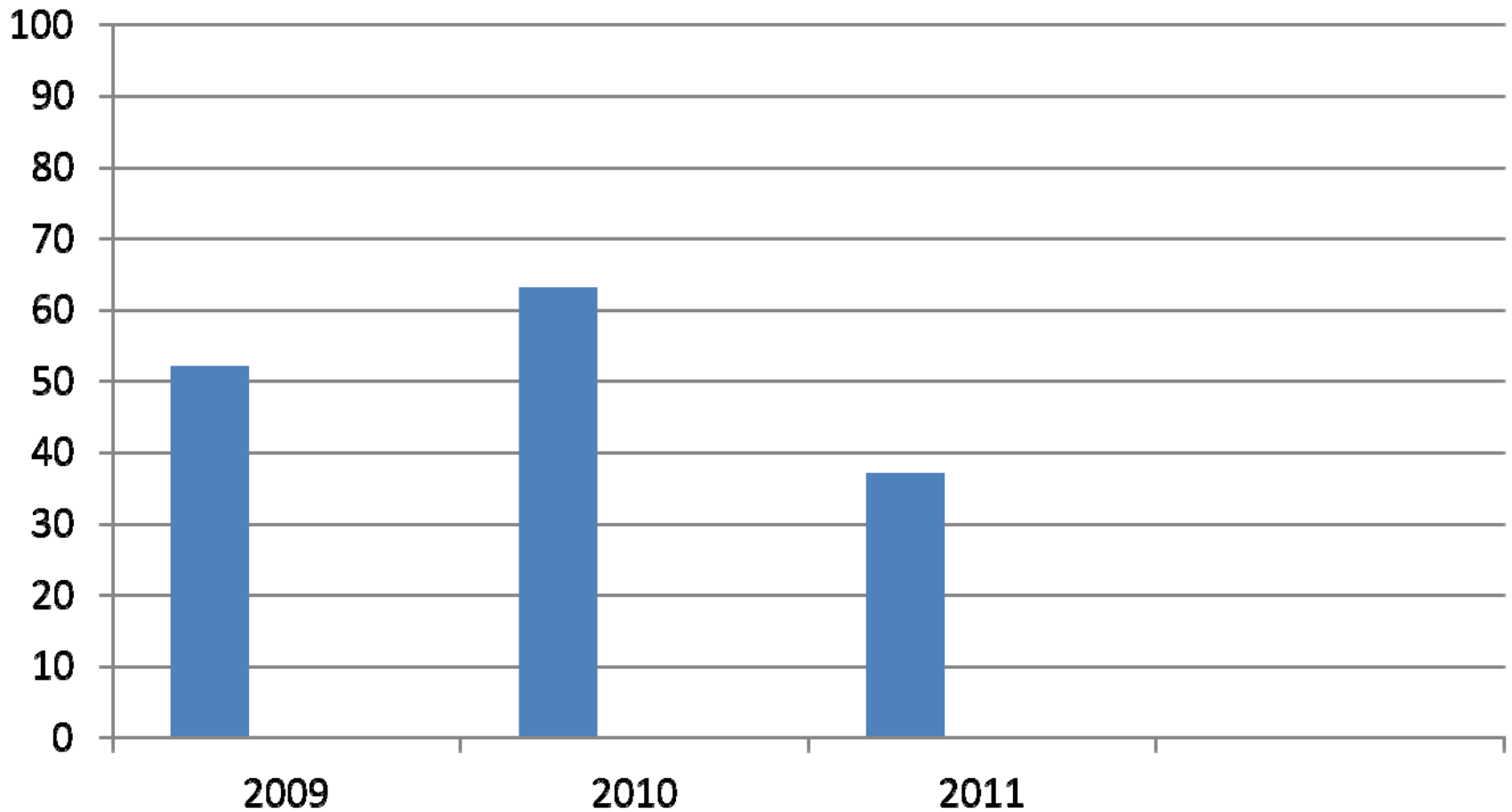
Public Health and Human Services Committee

April 17, 2012

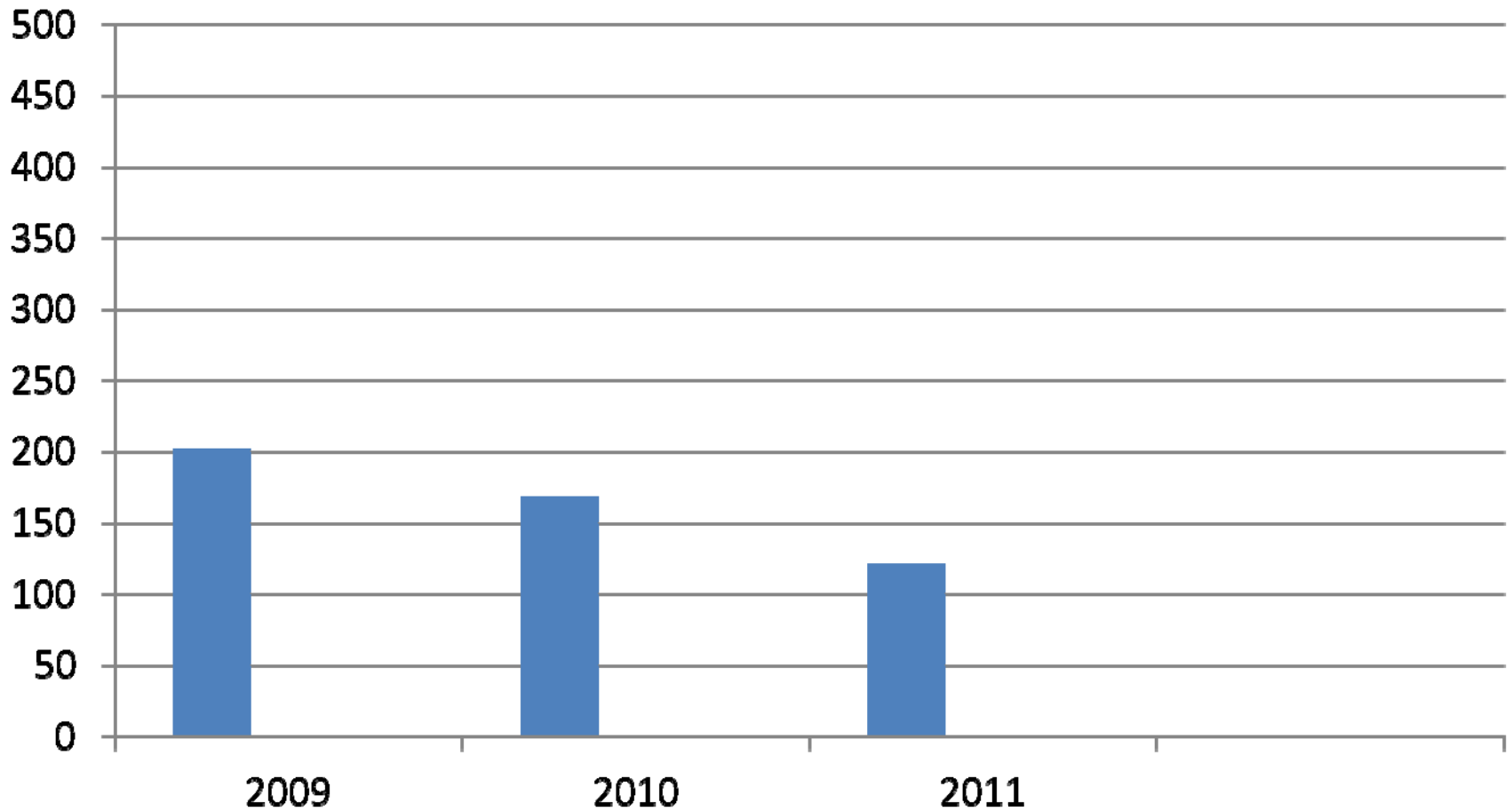
Deer involved collision reports 78731



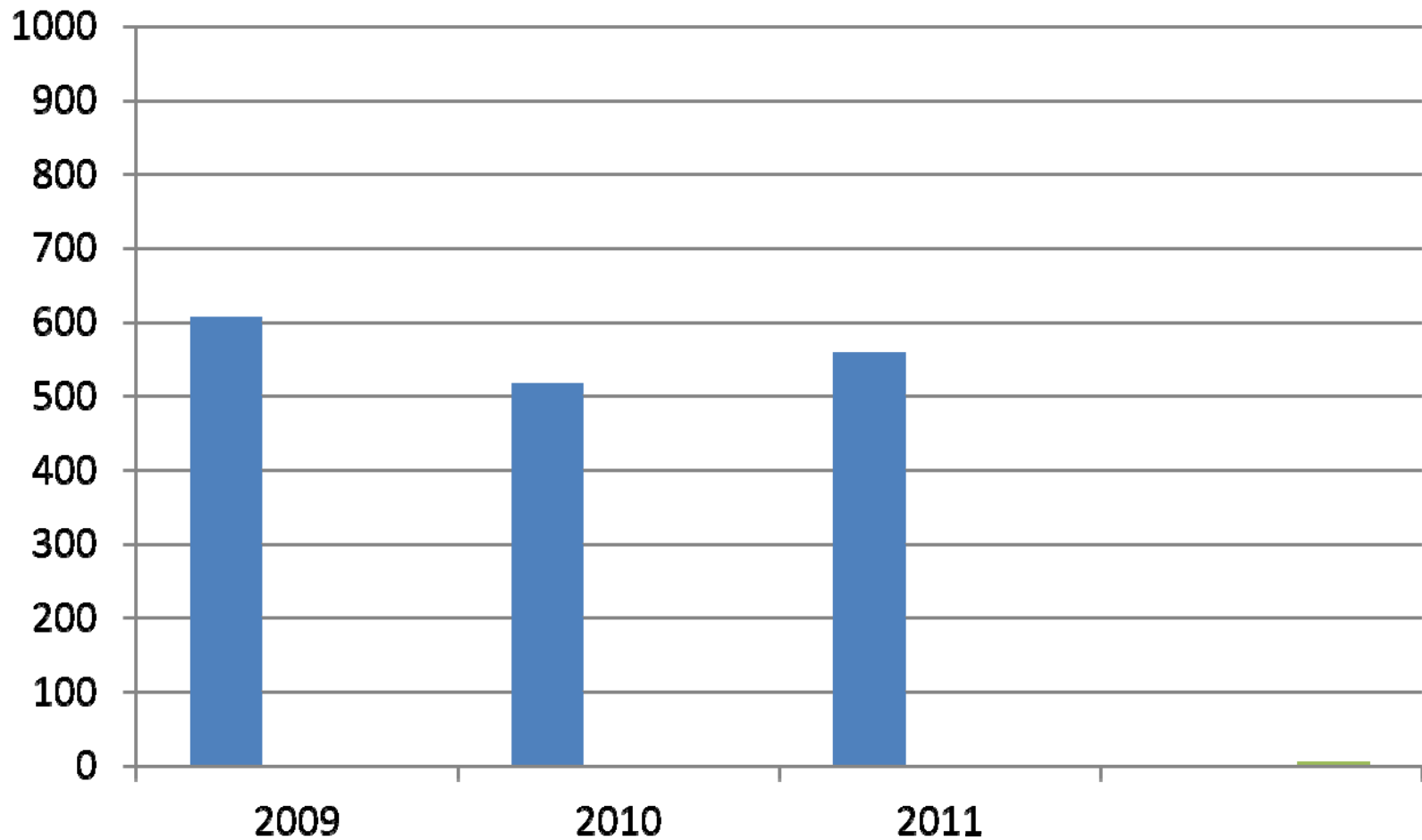
Deer involved collisions – city wide



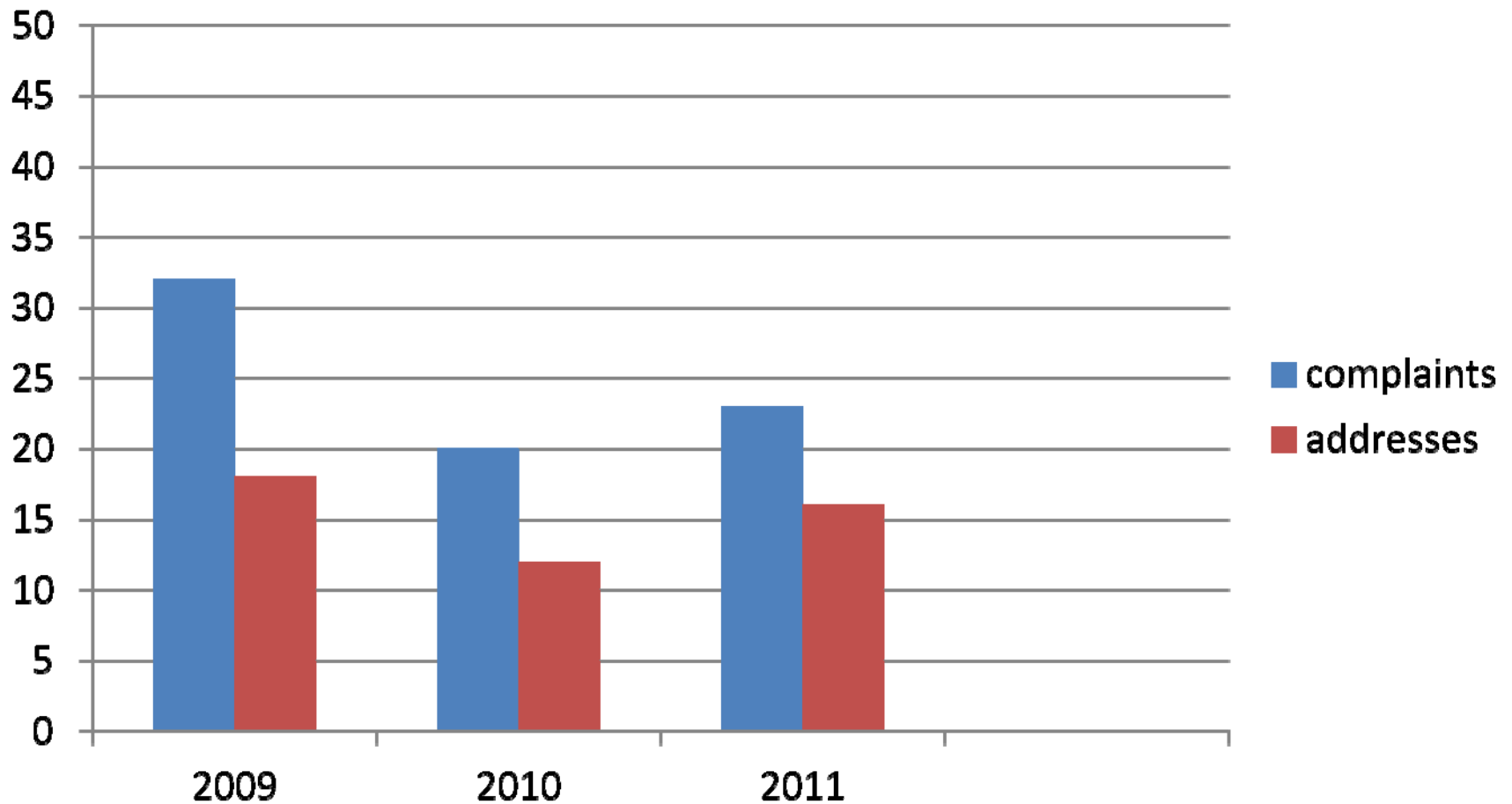
Dead Deer Pickups 78731



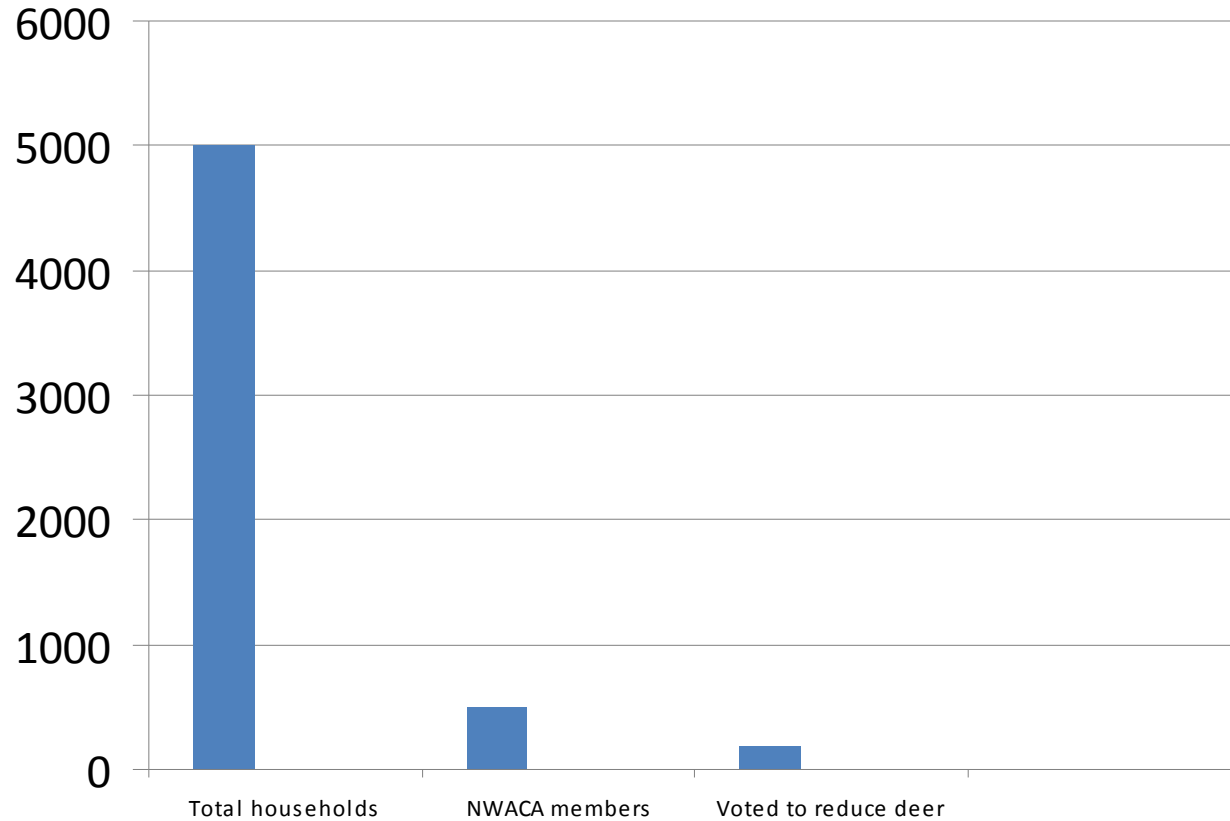
Dead Deer Pickups – city wide



Number of complaints



NWACA Representation



City of Austin Initiatives

“community identity”

Year	Initiative	Priorities
1999	Smart Growth	Preserve open space and natural beauty
2007 – resolved	National Wildlife Federation	Attract wildlife and restore habitat
2009 – recognized (largest city and first in Texas)	Community Level Wildlife Habitat Certification	Create sustainable, pesticide-free green space that provides wildlife with food, water, cover and places to raise young
2010	No Kill Animal Shelter	Reduce the killing of homeless animals

Summary observations

- Deer “issues” are not increasing and few complain
- Fewer than 4% of the households in the NWACA boundaries and less than ½ of the NWACA membership voted to reduce the deer population
- NWACA’s recommendations to amend the Ordinance conflict with city and neighborhood values and established city policy

Recommendations: No changes are needed to the No Feeding Ordinance

- Prohibiting water conflicts with city policy and is unenforceable
- Deleting the intent requirement would outlaw some composting and impact feral cat programs
- Changing “may” to “shall” eliminates city discretion
- Increasing the fine may be ineffective
- Existing law provides a remedy for inadequate enforcement

Focus city efforts on existing laws

- Community education under the existing ordinance using timely, targeted, fact-based education
- Reminders about off-leash dogs
- Increased enforcement of traffic laws

2010 APD Speed Study

Northwest Hills

Location	Speed Limit	Top Speed	% Speeding
Burney Drive	30	60	36%
Far West Blvd	30	58	43%
Greystone Drive	30	50	46%
Mesa Drive	30	54	74%

Establish additional city processes and policies to address deer issues

- Involve all stakeholders through city list serve
- Develop a process for referring issues for stakeholder input prior to presentation to council – Austin Animal Advisory Commission is one possible resource
- Consider clarification of official city position regarding deer through a wildlife protection policy or ordinance

Wildlife Protection Ordinances and Policies

- Diverse communities have wildlife policies and/or ordinances
- Policies and ordinances are tailored to local wildlife issues
- All stress human responsibility, prevention, education, appreciation and non-lethal control

Examples of Wildlife Protection Policies and Ordinances

- Los Angeles, CA – all wildlife
www.laanimalservices.com
- Boulder, CO – all (prairie dogs, mountain lions, bears)
www.bouldercolorado.gov
www.colocode.com/boulder2/chapter8-3.htm
- Calabasas, CA; Aurora, CO; Broomfield, CO – coyotes
www.ci.calabasas.ca.us/coyotes.html
www.auroragov.org/livinghere/petslivestockandwildlife/index.htm
www.broomfield.org/openspace/coexistencepolicyfinal.pdf
- Rockville, MD – deer
www.rockvillemd.gov/environment/wildlife/rockvilledeerpolicy.pdf